

terminal on the network is specified on the display, information on the specified terminal is displayed on the display.--

REMARKS

Claims 1-33 are pending. By this Amendment, claims 1, 8, 15 and 17 are amended and claims 22-33 are added. Reconsideration based on the above amendments and following remarks is respectfully requested.

The attached Appendix includes marked-up copies of each rewritten claim (37 C.F.R. §1.121(c)(1)(ii)).

I. THE CLAIMS DEFINE ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER

The Office Action rejects claims 1-21 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,170,007 to Venkatraman (hereinafter "Venkatraman") in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,021,429 to Danknick (hereinafter "Danknick"). The rejection is respectfully traversed.

Neither Venkatraman alone, or in combination with Danknick, discloses, teaches or suggests the claimed feature of selecting one of the terminals based on a user's designation, as claimed in independent claims 1, 8, 11, 15 and 17.

The Office Action admits that Venkatraman does not explicitly teach the claimed features of at least two of the terminals each adapted to obtain information on the other terminals therefrom, requesting means for requesting the selected terminal to transmit, to the controller, information on all the interconnected terminals; wherein the selected terminal transmits a request to the other interconnected terminal to obtain the information on the other terminals, receives the information from the other terminals, and forwards to the controller the information from the other terminals and information on the selected terminal. However, the Office Action asserts that Danknick teaches these claimed features.

Applicant respectfully disagrees with the Office Action's interpretation of the applied art and the claimed invention. Danknick does not teach or suggest the features that the list manager or the selected terminal which transmits a request to the other interconnected terminals to obtain the information on the other terminals is selected by a user's designation. Rather, Danknick's list manager is automatically designated based on a status of the terminals without the user's designation or intention. See Danknick, at col. 9, lines 51-60. Because the user in Danknick does not know which terminal is designated as the list manager, the user needs to activate the program CPUTIL to obtain information on the list manager. See Danknick, at col. 8, lines 30-64.

In contrast, in the claimed invention, it is easy for the user in the invention to access the information collected on the selected terminal because the user knows which terminal works as the selected terminal.

Further, in the claimed invention, the selected terminal transmits a request to the other interconnected terminals to obtain the information on the other terminals, and receives the information from the other terminals, as claimed in independent claims 1, 8, 11, 15 and 17. In Danknick, the list manager does not forward a request to the other terminals. Rather, the list manager just retains information which has been automatically forwarded from the other terminals. See Danknick, at col. 1, lines 42-67.

Thus, Applicant respectfully submits, that taken separately or together, Venkatraman and Danknick do not teach or suggest the present invention as claimed in independent claims 1, 8, 11, 15 and 17.

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As required by MPEP Section 706.02(j), to establish a *prima facie* case of obviousness, these basic criteria must be met:

- 1) There must be some suggestion or motivation in the references themselves or in the knowledge generally available;
- 2) Reasonable expectation of success;
- 3) The prior art reference must teach or suggest all claim limitations.

The first and third requirements have not been met by the rejections of the Office Action.

Neither Venkatraman nor Danknick show any motivation to modify the structure to achieve the claimed invention, and the Office Action clearly admits that there is an essential part of the claimed invention missing in Venkatraman.

For at least these reasons, it is respectfully submitted that independent claims 1, 8, 11, 15 and 17 are distinguishable over the applied art. Claims 2-7, 9, 10, 12-14, and 18-33, are likewise distinguishable over the applied art for at least the reasons discussed as well as for additional features they recite. Withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) is respectfully requested.

II. CONCLUSION

For at least the reasons discussed above, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further is desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicant's undersigned representative at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,



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Attachments:

Appendix
Petition for Extension of Time
Amendment Transmittal

Date: November 26, 2002

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<p>DEPOSIT ACCOUNT USE AUTHORIZATION Please grant any extension necessary for entry; Charge any fee due to our Deposit Account No. 15-0461</p>
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APPENDIX

Changes to Claims:

Claims 22-33 are added.

The following is a marked-up version of the amended claims:

1. (Twice Thrice Amended) A network system comprising:

a plurality of terminals interconnected via a network; and

a controller that controls the terminals via the network;

the controller comprising:

selecting means for selecting one of the plurality of terminals based on a user's designation; and

requesting means for requesting the selected terminal to transmit, to the controller, information on all the interconnected terminals;

wherein the selected terminal transmits a request to the other interconnected terminals to obtain the information on the other terminals, receives the information from the other terminals, and forwards to the controller the information from the other terminals and information on the selected terminal.

8. (Twice Thrice Amended) A network system comprising:

a plurality of terminals interconnected via a network; and

a control computer controlling the terminals via the network;

wherein at least one of the terminals selected by the control computer based on a user's designation transmits a request to the other terminals to obtain the information on the other terminals, receives the information from the other terminals, and forwards to the controller the information from the other terminals and information on the selected terminal.

15. (~~Twice~~ ~~Thrice~~ Amended) A process for controlling by a controller connected to a network a plurality of terminals connected to the network, the process comprising the steps of:

selecting one of the terminals through the controller based on a user's designation;

causing the selected terminal to transmit a request to the other terminals to obtain information on the other terminals, and receive the information from the other terminals; and

causing the selected terminal to transmit the obtained information on the other terminals and information on the selected terminal to the controller.

17. (~~Twice~~ ~~Thrice~~ Amended) A recording medium that stores a program for execution by a controller in a network system including a plurality of terminals interconnected via a network and controlled by the controller via the network,

at least two of the terminals being each adapted to obtain information on the other terminals therefrom, and transmit the obtained information on the other terminals and information on the each terminal to the controller,

the program including the steps of:

selecting one of the at least two terminals through the controller based on a user's designation; and

requesting the selected terminal to transmit a request to the other terminals to obtain the information on the other terminals, receive the information on the other terminals from the other terminals and forward to the controller the information on the other terminals and information on the selected terminal.